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1962/05/15

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE (SECRET) AND
WHITEHALL (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION

Sir D. Ormsby Gore

No. 1386
May 15, 1962

D. 1.15 a.m. May 16, 1962
R. 2.30 a.m. May 16, 1962

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1386 of May 15,

Repeated for information to :	Bangkok	Vientiane
	Canberra	Delhi
	Singapore	Ottawa
	Wellington	Kuala Lumpur
	UK Mission New York	
	Paris	

and Saving to : UK Mission Geneva
UKDEL NATO

Your telegram No. 3624: Laos.

I saw Mr. Rusk immediately on receipt of your telegram. Mr. Harriman was present. Rusk thought a squadron of Hunters would be an entirely appropriate contribution. He was delighted by the news and said he knew the President would be too.

2. Mr. Rusk's first reaction when I discussed with him the basis upon which our forces would move into Thailand was that it should be a bilateral arrangement and not part of a specifically SEATO action. Their own contribution would remain on that basis under present circumstances and would not be in pursuance of the Manila Treaty.

3. As regards the co-ordination of any forces arriving in Thailand, Rusk thought that this should be done on an ad hoc basis, probably through General Richardson who they have just designated as their own force commander, but I will pursue these details further with the State Department in the morning.

4. We had a short discussion about how the Thais might be stimulated to make a firm request to us. Presumably in the SEATO Council they would make only a general appeal for help. I suggested that this might best be worked out between our Ambassador and the United States Ambassador in Bangkok.

/5. Before

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5. Before leaving, Rusk said he knew he would be speaking for the President in thanking us for this extremely prompt and helpful reaction. He believed that if we sent the squadron to Thailand it would make an immense impression upon the Thais and upon other members of SEATO.

Foreign Office please pass (Immediate to all) to Bangkok, Canberra, Singapore, Wellington, Paris, Vientiane, Delhi and Kuala Lumpur and Saving to UK Mission Geneva and UKDEL NATO as my telegrams Nos. 81, 49, 94, 39, 157, 74, 33, 7, 150 and 376 respectively.

[Repeated as requested to Foreign Service Posts. Copy sent to C.R.O. Telegraph Branch for transmission to Canberra Wellington, Delhi and Kuala Lumpur]

ADVANCE COPIES:

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